

Application of : Judah Z. Weinberger
Serial No. : 09/803,773
Date Filed : March 12, 2001

D. In the claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (Amended) A tube segment for treating a disease process in the vicinity of a luminal structure, said tube segment including radioactive material for producing radiation for treating a disease process, said tube segment being adapted to be longitudinally slid over and carried by a balloon catheter having a catheter shaft and balloon for insertion in the luminal structure, and being made of expandable and collapsible material, whereby the shape of the tube segment [may be] is determined by the shape of the balloon as the balloon inflates, and wherein the tube segment covers the balloon substantially entirely during inflation and wherein the outer surface of the tube segment is exposed to come into direct contact with the luminal structure.

2. (Original) The tube segment according to claim 1, wherein the radioactive material is in the form of a coating.

3. (Original) The tube segment according to claim 1, wherein the tube segment comprises a mixture of radioactive material and non-radioactive material.

4. (Original) The tube segment according to claim 1, wherein the tube segment comprises non-radioactive material into which is adsorbed radioactive material.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The tube segment according to claim 1, wherein the radioactive material is present in a predetermined dosage per surface area of the tube segment when the tube segment is in an unexpanded state, but wherein the dosage changes as the tube

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segment is inflated.

7. (Original) The tube segment according to claim 1, wherein the tube segment is expandable in a range of sizes.

8. (Amended) An apparatus for treating a disease process in the vicinity of a luminal structure, comprising:

a balloon catheter having a shaft and an inflatable balloon;
and

a tube segment adapted to be longitudinally slid over and carried by and cover said balloon, said tube segment including radioactive material, and being made of expandable and collapsible material, whereby the shape of the tube segment [may be] is determined by the shape of the balloon as the balloon inflates, and wherein the tube segment covers the balloon substantially entirely during inflation and wherein the outersurface of the tube segment is exposed to come into direct contact with the luminal structure.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the tube segment comprises radioactive material in the form of a coating.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the tube segment comprises a mixture of radioactive material and non-radioactive material.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the tube segment comprises non-radioactive material into which is absorbed radioactive material.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

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14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Amended) A method for treating a disease process in the vicinity of a luminal structure comprising:

inserting a balloon catheter into a luminal structure, said balloon catheter having an inflatable balloon and a tube segment, the tube segment being slideable over the balloon catheter, and the tube segment being of expandable and collapsible material and which includes radioactive material;

inflating the balloon with fluid to expand the tube segment and move the tube segment [closer] to contact the interior of the luminal structure to thereby administer a radiation dose to the luminal structure, said tube segment substantially entirely covering the balloon during inflation;

deflating the balloon and collapsing the tube segment; and removing the balloon catheter including the tube segment after a desired radiation dose has been achieved.

23. (Original) The method, according to claim 22, wherein the step of inflating comprises inflating the balloon with gaseous media.

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24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the gaseous media is selected from the group comprising Co₂ and Argon.

25. (Amended) A tube segment for treating a disease process in the vicinity of a luminal structure, said tube segment including radioactive material for producing radiation for treating a disease process, said tube segment having varying concentrations of radioactive material for producing a radiation dose which varies along at least one dimension of the tube segment while having substantially equal wall thickness along its longitudinal length.

26. (Original) The tube segment according to claim 25, wherein the dimension is axial.

27. (Original) The tube segment according to claim 25, wherein the dimension is longitudinal.

28. (Amended) An apparatus for treating a disease process in the vicinity of a luminal structure, comprising:

a balloon catheter having a shaft and an inflatable balloon; and

a tube segment adapted to be carried by and cover said balloon, said tube segment including radioactive material having varying concentrations of radioactive material for producing radiation for treating a disease process, said tube segment producing a radiation dose which varies along at least one dimension of the tube segment while having substantially equal wall thickness along its longitudinal length .

29. (Amended) The [tube segment] apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the dimension is axial.

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30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)